

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
 - a first network interface coupled to service packetized communications with at least one Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) terminal within a first network;
 - a second network interface coupled to service the packetized communications with the at least one VoIP terminal via a second network; ~~and~~
 - a processor coupled to the first network interface and to the second network interface; and
 - a programmable codec, coupled to the processor, that employs a corresponding coding scheme to encode or decode each of the packetized communications; and
 wherein:
 - the processor determines a communication signature for each of the packetized communications;
 - the processor determines, based upon a corresponding communication signature, whether a packetized communication is a real-time communication;
 - when the packetized communication is the real-time communication, the processor initially directs packetized communications with the at least one additional VoIP terminal to be serviced within the first network using the first network interface and monitors a first service level at which the real-time communication is ~~currently~~ supported within ~~at least one of the first network; and the second network; and~~
 - when the first service level is below a minimal service level within the first network, the programmable codec changes from a first coding scheme by which the real-time communication is encoded or decoded therein to a second coding scheme;
 - the processor monitors a second service level at which real-time communication is supported within the first network using the second coding scheme;
 - and
 - when the second service level is below the minimal service level within the first network, the processor directs packetized communications with the at least one additional VoIP terminal to be serviced within the second network using the second network interface.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:
the programmable codec employs ~~a~~ the first coding scheme to encode or decode a first packetized communication of the packetized communications; and
the programmable codec employs ~~a~~ the second coding scheme to encode or decode a second packetized communication of the packetized communications.

3. (previously amended)The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:
the processor determines, based upon a corresponding communication signature, whether a packetized communication is a non real-time communication; and
when a non real-time communication is identified, its service level is adjusted to be relatively lower than a service level of the real-time communication.

4. (previously amended)The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:
the second network includes a first servicing network and a second servicing network; and
if a service level at which the real-time communication may be supported when communicated via the first servicing network is below the minimal service level, the real-time communication is rerouted via the second servicing network.

5. (previously amended)The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the processor prioritizes the real-time communication over non real-time communication.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein each packetized communication has associated therewith a pair of communication signatures that includes a receive signature corresponding to communications received from the at least one VoIP terminal ~~a corresponding VoIP terminal~~ via the first network interface and a transmit signature corresponding to communications received via the second network interface and intended for the at least one VoIP terminal ~~corresponding VoIP terminal~~.

7. (previously amended)The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the receive signature is primarily employed to determine whether the packetized communication is the real-time communication.

8. (previously amended)The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the receive signature indicates a problem with the apparatus.

9. (previously amended)The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the transmit signature indicates a problem with communications within the second network.

10. (previously amended)The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the packetized communication is an audio communication.

11. (previously amended)The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the packetized communication is an audio-visual communication.

12. (previously amended)The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the audio-visual communication is a video conferencing communication.

13-48. (canceled).

49. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:

the programmable codec initially employs a third coding scheme by which the real-time communication is encoded or decoded within the second network;

the processor monitors a third service level at which real-time communication is supported within the second network using the third coding scheme; and

when the third service level is below the minimal service level within the second network, the programmable codec changes from the third coding scheme by which the real-time communication is encoded or decoded therein to a fourth coding scheme.

50. (new) The apparatus of Claim 49, further comprising:

a third network interface, coupled to the processor, and also coupled to service packetized communications with the at least one VoIP terminal within a third network; and wherein:

the processor monitors a fourth third service level at which real-time communication is supported within the second network using the fourth coding scheme; and

when the fourth service level is below the minimal service level within the second network, the processor directs packetized communications with the at least one additional VoIP terminal to be serviced within the third network using the third network interface.

51. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of access points (APs) within the first network, each of the plurality of APs is able to support the packetized communications with the at least one VoIP terminal within the first network; and wherein:

each of the plurality of APs supports a corresponding expected service quality level; and

the processor selects one of the plurality of APs to support the packetized communications with the at least one VoIP terminal within the first network based on its corresponding expected service quality level.

52. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of access points (APs) within the first network, each of the plurality of APs is able to support the packetized communications with the at least one VoIP terminal within the first network; and wherein:

the processor queries each of the plurality of APs to determine a corresponding service quality level supported thereby; and

the processor selects one of the plurality of APs to support the packetized communications with the at least one VoIP terminal within the first network based on its determined, corresponding service quality level.

53. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:
the apparatus is an access point (AP).
54. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:
the apparatus is a wireless terminal.
55. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:
the first network interface is a wireless local area network (WLAN) radio frequency (RF) interface; and
the second network interface is a cellular RF interface.
56. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:
the first network interface is a wireless local area network (WLAN) radio frequency (RF) interface; and
the second network interface is a satellite RF interface.
57. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:
the first network interface is a cellular radio frequency (RF) interface; and
the second network interface is a satellite RF interface.
58. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:
a third network interface coupled to service packetized communications with
the at least one VoIP terminal within a third network.
59. (new) The apparatus of Claim 58, wherein:
the first network interface is a wireless local area network (WLAN) radio frequency (RF) interface;
the second network interface is a cellular RF interface; and
the third network interface is a satellite RF interface.